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Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 00060 031032Z

16
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 /070 W
---------- 097877
R 021900Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4957
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 0060

E.O. 11652: XGDS
TAGS: PFOR, IT, UR
SUBJ: ZAGLADIN ON SOVIET PARTY CONGRESS

1. DURING JANUARY 2 CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, ITALIAN COMM-
UNIST PARTY (PCI) FOREIGN SECTION CHIEF SERGIO SEGRE COMMENTED
ON A CONVERSATION HE HAD WITH VADIM ZAGLADIN, DEPUTY CHIEF OF
THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY'S (CPSU) INTERNATIONAL SECTION,
ABOUT THE FORTHCOMING CPSU PARTY CONGRESS. SEGRE NOTED THAT
ZAGLADIN APPROACHED THE SUBJECT IN AN UNDISTURBED MANNER IN-
DICATING TO HIM THAT THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONGRESS WERE NOT
PRESENTING ANY UNUSUAL PROBLEMS FOR THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP.

2. ZAGLADIN INDICATED TO SEGRE THAT NO ONE SHOULD EXPECT
ANY MAJOR NEW DEPARTURES FROM THE CONGRESS. INTERNALLY, THE
CONGRESS WILL FOCUS ON ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY MEASURES
DESIGNED TO CORRECT AILING SECTORS OF THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY.
SPECIFIC NEW PROPOSALS WILL BE PRESENTED--ZAGLADIN GAVE THE
IMPRESSION THAT THEY HAVE ALREADY BEEN WORKED OUT--BUT NONE OF
THEM WILL BE RADICAL DEPARTURES. THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR WILL
RECEIVE A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OT ATTENTION SINCE, AS ZAGLADIN
NOTED TO SEGRE, MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS IN THE FUNCTIONING OF THIS
AREA ARE ABSOLUTELY VITAL FOR THE STABILITY AND GROWTH OF THE
SOVIET ECONOMY. AMONG PROPOSALS ZAGLADIN HINTED THE CONGRESS
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PAGE 02 ROME 00060 031032Z

WOULD TAKE IN THIS AREA, WERE SOME DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN THE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

IRRIGATION SYSTEM IN THE COUNTRY.

3. IN TERMS OF PERSONNEL, ZAGLADIN WAS NON-COMMITTAL, ALTHOUGH SEGRE CAME AWAY FROM THE CONVERSATION WITH THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT BREZHNEV WOULD REMAIN AS HEAD OF THE PARTY FOLLOWING THE CONGRESS. (ASIDE THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD MADE CERTAIN COMMITMENTS AT THE RECENT EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONFERENCE WORKING GROUP MEETING IN BERLIN IF BREZHNEV AND HIS POLICIES WERE UNDER ANY SERIOUS CHALLENGE AND HIS POSITION INSECURE.) SEPTEL ON THIS ASPECT OF THE CONVERSATION WITH SEGRE FOLLOWS.) HOWEVER, THERE WERE HINTS ABOUT A REJUVENATION OF THE PARTY'S HIERARCHY ALTHOUGH ZAGLADIN PROVIDED NO CLUES AS TO WHO WOULD GO AND WHO WOULD MOVE INTO THE LEADERSHIP CIRCLE.

4. SEGRE HAD THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT THE FOREIGN POLICY PORTION OF THE CONGRESS PROGRAM HAD NOT YET BEEN FULLY WORKED OUT. HERE AGAINS, HOWEVER, ZAGLADIN INDICATED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO MAJOR NEW DEPARTURES. ZAGLADIN SPOKE ABOUT DETENTE IN TRADITIONAL TERMS, ALTHOUGH HE NOTED THAT ELECTORAL CAMPAIGNS IN BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND GERMANY IN 1976 MIGHT MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO MOVE FORWARD IN SPECIFIC AREAS.

5. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, ZAGLADIN APPEARED HIGHLY SELF-CONFIDENT DURING HIS ROME VISIT, AND SEGRE SEES HIM AS BEING AN INDIVIDUAL WHO WILL MOVE UP THE LADDER OF THE CPSU HIERARCHY.

6. DEPARTMENT REPEAT AS APPROPRIATE.VOLPE

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EO Systematic Review
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